

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ A control system for a plurality of mechanical units, namely robots (1, 2) and/or external axes (3), comprising manually-operated control means (5, 12), such as a joy-stick or key panel, adapted to move at least one of said mechanical units (1, 2, 3) or part thereof, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ the control system comprising:

indication means (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14) adapted to indicate whether said at least one mechanical unit (1, 2, 3), or part thereof, that is to be moved is associated with any other mechanical unit(s), or part(s) thereof, and consequently indicate that the movement of said at least one mechanical unit, or part thereof, will also result in the movement of the indicated associated mechanical unit(s) or part(s) thereof.

2. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said indication means (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14) provides at least one of the following signals or a combination thereof: visual, acoustic, tactile.

3. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to claim 1, ~~wherein or 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ the indication means comprises a graphical and/or text interface (6) that displays which mechanical units (1, 2, 3), or parts thereof, are associated with one another by means of graphical symbols (7, 8, 9, 10) and/or text messages representing the plurality of mechanical units (1, 2, 3) or parts thereof.

4. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the graphical and/or text interface (6) is arranged to indicate information on how the, or each, mechanical unit (1, 2, 3), or part thereof, associated with said at least one mechanical unit, or part thereof, that is to be moved will move on movement of said at least one mechanical unit or part thereof.

5. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to claim 1, wherein any of the preceding claims, characterized in that indication means are arranged on each of the mechanical units (1, 2, 3) or part thereof to display which mechanical units are associated with one another, either constantly or when such information is requested.

6. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to claim 1, wherein any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the indication means (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14) is mounted on a stationary or portable programming unit.

7. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises claim 1, further comprising:

confirmation means (11) to confirm that an operator is aware of which mechanical unit(s) or part(s) thereof will move on activation of the manually-operated control means.

8. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising:

disengagement means adapted to disengage the manually-operated control means (5, 12) until the operator has confirmed that he/she is aware of which mechanical unit(s) or part(s) thereof will move on activation of the manually-operated control means.

9. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterized in that it comprises~~ claim 1, further comprising:

disassociation means (14) adapted to disassociate one or more of the mechanical units (1, 2, 3) or parts thereof that are associated with the mechanical unit or part thereof that is to be moved from said at least one mechanical unit or part thereof that is to be moved.

10. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterized in that it comprises~~ claim 1, further comprising:

association means (14) adapted to associate one or more of the mechanical units (1, 2, 3) or part thereof to said at least one mechanical unit or part thereof that is to be moved.

11. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to ~~any of claims 7-10, characterized in that~~ claim 7, wherein the confirmation means (11), ~~disassociation means or association means respectively~~ is initiated by one click of a computer mouse or by pressing a keyboard tangent or push button, or by touching an icon on a touch screen.

12. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the manually-operated control means (5, 12) is portable.

13. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the manually-operated control means (5, 12) is located in the vicinity of the plurality of mechanical units (1, 2, 3).

14. (currently amended) ~~Control~~ The control system according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the manually-operated control means (5, 12) is located at a location remote to the plurality of mechanical units (1, 2, 3).

15. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for moving at least one of a plurality of mechanical units or part thereof, namely robots (1, 2) and/or external axes (3), using manually-operated control means (5, 12), ~~characterized in that it comprises the step of~~ the method comprising:

indicating information on which mechanical units (1, 2, 3) or parts thereof are associated with one another and consequently indicates that movement of said at least one mechanical unit or part thereof will also result in the movement of the indicated associated mechanical unit(s) or part(s) thereof.

16. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 15, ~~characterized in that it further comprises the step of~~ further comprising:

informing how the, or each, mechanical unit (1, 2, 3) or part thereof associated with said at least one mechanical unit or part thereof that is to be moved will move on movement of said at least one mechanical unit or part thereof.

17. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
~~or 16, characterized in that it further comprises the step of~~

an operator having to confirm that he/she is aware of which mechanical units (1, 2, 3) or parts thereof are associated with said at least one mechanical unit or part thereof that is to be moved before the manually-operated control means (5, 12) are activated.

18. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said confirmation is initiated by one click of a computer mouse or by pressing a keyboard tangent or push button, or touching an icon on a touch screen.

19. (currently amended) A computer program product, comprising:
a computer readable medium; and
~~containing~~ computer program code means recorded on the computer readable medium for making a computer or processor carry out the step of ~~the method according to any of claims 15-18~~

indicating information on which mechanical units or parts thereof are associated with one another and consequently indicates that movement of said at least one mechanical unit or part thereof will also result in the movement of the indicated associated mechanical unit(s) or part(s) thereof.

20. (currently amended) A The computer program product according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that it comprises means to prompt~~ wherein the computer program code further

makes the computer or processor carry out the step of

prompting an operator to do at least one of the following: select a mechanical unit or part thereof that is to be moved, associate or disassociate one or more other mechanical unit or part thereof with/from the mechanical unit or part thereof to be moved;

confirming ~~confirm~~ the selection of mechanical units or parts thereof to be moved before the operator's command is executed.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) Use of a control system according to ~~any of claims 1-14, a method according to any of claims 15-18 or a computer program according to any of claims 19-24~~ claim 1 in any system comprising a plurality of mechanical units (1, 2, 3), namely robots and/or external axes, which are programmed to carry out at least one task where at least two of said mechanical units or parts thereof move synchronously.

23. (new) The control system according to claim 9, wherein the disassociation means is initiated by one click of a computer mouse or by pressing a keyboard tangent or push button, or by touching an icon on a touch screen.

24. (new) The control system according to claim 10, wherein the association means is initiated by one click of a computer mouse or by pressing a keyboard tangent or push button, or by touching an icon on a touch screen.